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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Tenth special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 511th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 19 March 1979, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. MATEUS-NUÑEZ (Venezuela)

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Corrections to the records of the meetings of the Board at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

[illegible]

1. [illegible] the Board, and that the session was particularly important, since it coincided with the end of the Second United Nations Development Decade, the forthcoming fifth session of the Conference on Trade and Development, and the preparations for the Third Decade of Development. It provided an opportunity to evaluate the work of the past ten years, to formulate and rationalize development programmes, to review new insights in the light of experience, and to agree on [illegible].

2. General Assembly resolution 3/1 of 20 September 1974 had [illegible] by the Board at the sixth-[illegible] session of the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Conference and set forth its views on the tasks of the Conference. The resolution in effect expressed the conviction of the international community that structural changes in the international economy were essential, since the present crisis was structural and could not be solved by temporary measures; and that the achievement of those objectives meant evaluating the economic and trade situation in the light of the interrelationship of problems in the areas of trade, development, money and finance, and the evolution that might be needed in the rules and principles governing international economic relations.

3. The need for a global strategy had been strongly emphasized by successive Secretaries-General of UNCTAD from the time of the second session of the Conference. Events had shown that the whole world was responsible, and that the whole world must act. The time had come for a decision which would really lead to effective action on the establishment of a new international economic order.

4. The provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Conference was designed to meet that purpose. It provided a balanced programme of work, with due attention to the essential structural changes in the international economy. A process of change, slow but sure, had been started in certain sectors, such as the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the generalized system of preferences, the international code of conduct on the transfer of technology, and the principles and rules and other issues relating to restrictive business practices; but further progress was needed in a wider context to include essential aspects such as the problems of protectionism and the unsatisfactory operation of the international monetary system. Action was also needed on the problems of the least-developed, land-locked and islands developing countries, and relations among countries having differing economic and social systems.

5. He then reviewed the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Conference, stressing a number of points. In connexion with international trade, the problem of protectionism was aggravated by factors such as simultaneous recession and inflation in the developed countries, conflict between long-term and short-term objectives such as efficient production versus full employment, balance of payments, and competitiveness. In connexion with monetary and financial issues, the international

monetary system was not adjusted to reality and to the need to promote world trade and development. Regarding the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the Common Fund, firmer action was needed, with particular attention to marketing. Efforts must be made to improve the situation concerning technology and shipping, where negotiations had revealed a lack of understanding between the parties concerned, and also a lack of vision. A clear demonstration of political will, solidarity and understanding was needed in respect of the problems of the least developed, land-locked and island countries.

6. In connexion with relations between countries with differing economic and social systems, he recalled a statement by Mr. Prebisch at the second session of the Conference, stressing the importance of trade between the developing countries and the East and West countries. Financial co-operation of those developing countries was an important factor in the new international economic order. While the main responsibility lay with the developing countries, support by the international community, and especially the industrialized countries, was essential. UNCTAD had an important part to play, in particular through technical assistance.

7. Lastly, he stressed the importance of discussing items 9 and 10 together, since UNCTAD provided the means for both negotiation and implementation. The secretariat had suggested that the two items should be considered in a sessional committee during the Conference.

8. The provisional agenda was not submitted in order of priority. It was for delegations to decide on the relative importance of the items.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA (item 4 of the provisional agenda)

(a) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION (TD/B/AC.18 and Add.1 and 2)

9. The agenda and organization of the work of the session, as set forth in documents TD/B/AC.18/1 and Add.1 and 2, was adopted.

10. The PRESIDENT suggested that a contact group should be established, consisting of 19 members - three from Africa, three from Asia, six from Group B, three from Latin America, three from Group D, and a representative of the People's Republic of China. The contact group could, among other things, deal with the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Conference. Any delegations interested would be welcome to participate in the meetings of the contact group.

11. It was so decided.

(b) TREATMENT OF NEW STATES MEMBERS OF UNCTAD FOR PURPOSES OF ELECTIONS

12. The PRESIDENT welcomed the delegations of the Solomon Islands and Dominica. In accordance with normal practice, until the Conference had adopted the necessary provisions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, the Solomon Islands would be considered for purposes of elections as forming part of the group of countries included in part A of the annex to that resolution and Dominica as part of the group of countries included in part B of the annex.

13. It was so agreed.

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(...) ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Board that at the conclusion of the eighteenth session, the Board had been composed of 117 members. In accordance with paragraph ... of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, Upper Volta has indicated its wish to be a member of the Board. If there were no objections he would take it that the Board agreed that Upper Volta should be a member.

2. It was so decided.

(ITEM NUMBER (agenda item ...)

16. The SECRETARY informed the Board that the Government of Cuba had expressed the wish that the Sixth Session of the Conference should take place at Havana.

17. The Board took note of the invitation with appreciation.

18. Mr. L. HUTTER (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of Group B, informed the Board that Mr. A. Tolovsky, Vice-President for Austria, had left Geneva, and said he would like to nominate Mr. Klaus Zuglian, Director of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Austria, to replace him.

19. Mr. Zuglian (Austria) was invited to take his seat.

The meeting rose at ...50 p.m.